Human Body Activity

Make a Full-sized Human Body Portrait



Talk to students about the functions of each organ in their body and how they fit together in a working machine.

See the handout; The Human Body: Organs and What They Do.

Age: 2-3rd grade

- 1. Print out the organs of the human body.
- 2. Copy enough for each student to have a set.
- 3. Have them color, label, and cut out each organ.
- 4. Get a large roll of paper (3 foot wide).
- 5. Cut off lengths about the heights of your students.
- 6. Have each student lie down on a length paper and trace their outline with a permanent marker. Have them write their name on their body sheet.
- 7. Have them place their organs in the right places on their body outlines. Use glue sticks to secure organs in place.
- 8. Hang them in the hall to share with the rest of the school.

The Human Body Organs and What They Do

The Internal Organs: From several different body systems (digestive, respiratory and circulatory), the internal organs run the machine that is your body.

The Lungs: The lungs take in (inhale) life-giving oxygen and expel (exhale) carbon dioxide waste. The left lung has two lobes (sections). The right lung has three lobes. Inside the lungs airways get smaller and smaller until they reach the tiny alveoli where oxygen is exchanged of carbon dioxide in the blood.

The Stomach: The stomach is a storage tank for digesting food. Its walls have a lot of muscle in them so it can stretch if you eat a lot of food. It can hold up to a gallon of food. When it is empty it shrinks back down and its walls fold up. The lining of the stomach has cells that make gastric juice, chemicals that digest food. It has a strong acid that kills bacteria on the foods we eat and digestive chemicals to digest protein. The stomach churns the food and mixes it with the gastric juices. By the time it leaves the stomach, the food is broken down. Now it is ready to move on to the small intestine.

The Small Intestine: The small intestine is about 6 feet long (2m), a hollow where digestion is finished up and all the food nutrients are taken off (absorbed) into the blood. It is here that the pancreas gland sends its pancreatic juice into the food. Also bile made in the liver and stored in the gall bladder enters here.

The Large Intestine: The large intestine is about 4.5 feet long (1.5m) and wider than the small intestine. Its job is to take up (absorb) any left over water, vitamins and electrolytes (like sodium and chloride) in the food waste passing through it. Food waste passes through the large intestine (also called the colon) and is passed from the body.

The Liver and Gall Bladder: The liver and the gall bladder are helper organs of the small intestine. The liver is a large organ, weighing about 3 pounds. It has 4 lobes. The gall bladder is a tiny, green sac about 4 inches long (10 cm). The liver is one of the most important organs of the body. Only a small part of what it does has to do with digestion. It makes bile, which breaks down fat. It also takes the blood coming from the digestive tract and changes all the nutrients into forms the body can use, storing some. It cleans alcohol and drugs from the blood, stores vitamins and reuses the iron in old, worn out red blood cells. The gall bladder stores bile made in the liver.











